

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

This invention comprises nucleic acid ligand for use as a diagnostic reagent for detecting the presence or absence of a target molecule in a sample, and a diagnostic reagent to measure the amount of a target molecule in a sample. In a preferred embodiment the nucleic acid ligands are identified by the method of the invention referred to as the Systematic Evolution of Ligands by EXponential enrichment (SELEX), wherein a candidate mixture of nucleic acids are iteratively enriched in high affinity nucleic acids and amplified by further partitioning.

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